

November

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2015



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

Check to see who else is coming to dinner!

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1912 Announcement Slides

Hidden Histories: Junior Praestantia Lantern

Posted on June 17, 2013

by kiaracwhite

Museum of HSTM Blog

From Kentwood Wells

This showed up on a blog from a museum in Leeds . It's a couple of years old, but I don't think it has been in the newsletter. Note there

are links to other magic lantern blogs at the bottom. It cites some ancient articles from our society publication.

<https://museumofhstm.wordpress.com/page/3/>

Junior Praestantia Lantern

Photo by Esther Lie

A significant amount of work has been carried out recently on documenting and researching our magic lanterns and slide collections, and it therefore seemed appropriate to reflect this in the 2013 Hidden Histories display. While this Junior Praestantia Lantern might not be as visually interesting as some of the other lanterns in our collection, it demonstrates specific aspects of the history of these instruments and the heritage of the University.

See and read more at:

<https://museumofhstm.wordpress.com/2013/06/17/hidden-histories-junior-praestantia-lantern/>



Auction

Alert!

Update - Silent Auction Collection Featured in the October e-pub

No questions were submitted as of the October 23, 2015 deadline. All the descriptions and conditions of sale in the October e-pub stand as published.

Bidding Procedures and Conditions of the Sale

Sale will be by Silent Auction with bids received by USPS mail or email until 5:00 PM, PST, Friday, November 6, 2015. Bids will be opened and the highest bid received over the Reserve will be the winner. If no offers are received at or above the Reserve, the auction is ended and the lot will not be sold.

Reserve: \$ 500.00 US.

Bids are to be submitted to:

Email: president@magiclanternsociety.org

USPS Mail:

Ron Easterday

MLS of US and Canada

1380 Lena PL NE

Poulsbo, WA 98370

Thank you!



An Oil Tank for an Argand Lamp

From David Evans

I just found this inside one of our phantasmagoria lanterns. I haven't seen one before myself. It fits on a post on the lamp tray of the lantern and originally the illuminant must have fitted in the carrier ring at the bottom. It now has the remains of a brass electric lamp holder soldered there.

Regards

David



Mark Sullivan – Artistic Director

**Amish Experience at
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Fax. 717-768-7864

mark@AmishExperience.com

www.magiclanterntheater.com

Hi David,

Thanks so much for writing back! Feel free to do whatever you think is best regarding the press release. It was basically to let the society know that there is a permanent Magic Lantern show going throughout the Holiday season and exactly what is going on with it.

All the best,
Mark Sullivan

Fantascope

From David MacLean

This past Spring during the informal Northeast magic lantern meeting at the Borton's, I demonstrated my experiments in projecting three dimensional objects and white shadows. Since it is the time for ghosts as I write this I thought others might want to see the "fantascope" project.

The lantern itself is just a wooden box with a slot on top for a puppet, a frame with latches over the front opening for lens or slides and an open back with a curtain. The lens is a poor quality one from an early 20th century post-card viewer so I kept the inside layout the same as the original machine except for about

eight inches added behind the puppet for work space. The tomb is thin pine and basswood and the medallion a dollar store scrapbook sticker.

The puppet is a plastic skeleton from a supplier of anatomical models and started out about seven inches tall. His head was cut off and reattached with a pin so it could turn. The photos show the wire that makes that work. The mechanism that opens the tomb is trial and error with the skeleton losing several body parts. His right elbow joint had to be modified a little and the lower left arm is actually detached and glued to the tomb.



Front Lens



Light Source



Puppet

continued next page

Fantascope continued



Darkening the eye sockets and other shadow areas with a pencil adds to the depth .

I sometimes do regular lantern shows at Civil War events so used 12 volt projector bulbs with a battery. AC voltage and a dimmer may give better control. But in a dark room even with a bad lens; or maybe because of the bad lens; projection is quite good. As the tomb opens, the skeleton slowly raises, turns and looks at you; it is very creepy. You can even reach through the back curtain and put your hand into the act for moving 3-D.

This website from Europe <http://users.telenet.be/thomasweynants//opaque.html> has photos of a projected skeleton on page VI. There are a lot of drawings and photos there as well.

White shadows are projected with no lens at all so it comes off and is replaced with a slide. I used pumpkin carving silhouettes cut out of paper, painted black and mounted to a glass and wood slide. The original light source was a candle so a single bulb flashlight makes a good substitute. Reach through the rear curtain and move lamp back and forth and at different angles to make the shadow figure seem to rush forward and fly around the room.

In the future I hope to experiment with other lenses and lamps. Who knows, maybe someday I can make a wheel operated focus mechanism like the original fantascope.

- David MacLean





From Eric Stott

I've just gotten an odd but frustrating variation on the usual Lilley type lantern. The lens board doesn't slide to focus, the only adjustment is the rack and pinion on the lens tube. It is missing the slide holder (a style peculiar to these lanterns) but the big frustration is that it was owned by a tinkerer who removed all of the lens elements. I've taken a further piece off of it to repair another Lilley lantern but I wish I could get all three operating. I'll have a good pair though.

There is a good chance I'll be doing a show in connection with a local Steampunk group- it is tentatively called "Tea and Illuminations".

Here's my Steampunk costume- "Doctor Irritation"

It was nice trying on the E-Pub, but I don't think I'm going to find missing slides by asking the members.

I'm bidding on a large lot of dissolving views on Ebay & have good reason to think I'll get them. There will be some interesting duplicates left, if you have interest.



It looks as if I'll have better capacity for dissolving view shows once my current transaction goes through I'll have three matching M. C. Lilley lanterns, and all of them in the proper carrying cases.

All dressed up and no place to go (sigh)

Again, thanks for the help, ERIC

From David Evans

Eric

One problem may be deciding whether a slide is just a single image or whether it might have had other parts. I have a number like that.

Yes, would most probably be interested - good luck and let me know.

Regards
David

From Shel Izen Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon

*There was a show Wednesday,
October 14, 2015*

*6:00 - 8:00 PM
at the Wagner Free Institute of Science*






Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

6:00 - 8:00 PM
at the Wagner Free Institute of Science

Please [REGISTER HERE](#) for this free event.

The 2015 Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon will showcase glass lantern slides from the [American Philosophical Society](#), the [Athenaeum of Philadelphia](#), [The Franklin Institute](#), [Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College](#), [Scott Memorial Library - Thomas Jefferson University](#), the [University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology](#), and the [Wagner Free Institute of Science](#).



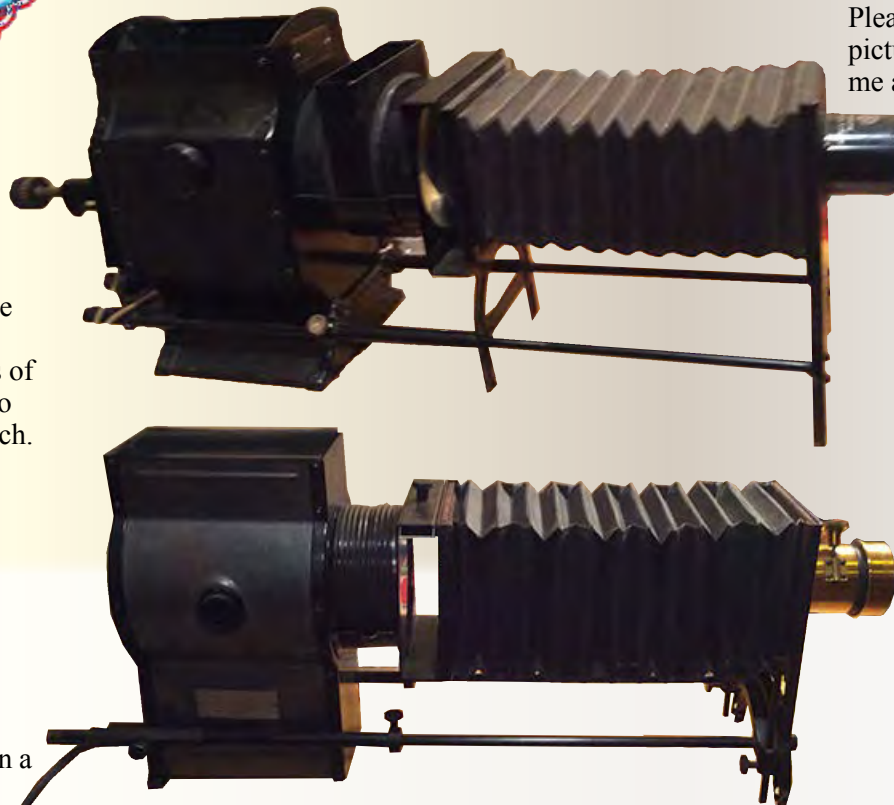



Magic Lanterns

From: Allen Dozler

squeakdozler@gmail.com

I have two old magic lanterns and some unused glass slides in a box. Also in original cases. I live in Lincoln NE. and cannot find anyone interested in buying them. I was wondering if you could give names of people who might be? They seem to be all there, and one is a carbon torch. Seem to be in very good shape.



Please sell as "Offers." Appreciate having the pictures shown in your publication. Contact me at 402-992-4739 if you need further information. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Allen Dozler



From David Evans

Hello Allen

The wood plate holders you show in a pile are double dark slides for a (probably) quarter-plate camera, not for the lantern. Each side opens and you load them in a dark room with an unexposed glass sensitized plate. They are sealed against light until the thin wood slider is withdrawn after the slide is in the camera. This then has the light-sensitive layer exposed in the camera. Release of the shutter briefly exposes the negative to the scene being photographed. The wood slider is then pushed back in. The holder can then be withdrawn and placed in the camera the



opposite way round and the process repeated (hence double-dark slide - it has two sensitized plates in it). The slide holder is then kept closed until back in the dark room where the plates can be processed.

These may have value to a camera collector, which may well include some of our members.

Hope that helps.

Regards
David



From Ron & Dorothy Easterday

October 1900

The Magic Lantern has proved very serviceable in INSTITUTIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE INSANE, as by its means the patients are amused and interested, and their minds turned in to new channels of thought. Dr. Kirkbride, of the Pennsylvania Hospital for Insane, says: "No INSTITUTION CAN WELL AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT A LANTERN AND GOOD ASSORTMENT OF SLIDES"

1887 McAllister Catalog quote

An exhibitor must be careful to have the apparatus always in perfect condition and the views arranged in the order in which they are to be shown; so, that in the dark, the hand can be immediately placed upon the required slider. He must never be in a hurry, and the audience must not be allowed to come too close to the apparatus, for some inquisitive intermeddler will be sure to make confusion by displacing the views, and thus mar the beauty of the exhibition.

1887 McAllister Catalog quote

The explanatory remarks should be brief and to the point;—the views generally require little explanation—and people usually come to these exhibitions to be instructed and amused by what they see, and not by what they hear; a good anecdote, however, brought in at the right moment, will always be appreciated, and will keep the audience in good spirits, induce them to come again and bring their friends, and thus MAKE IT PAY.

1887 McAllister Catalog quote

The Saint Paul Globe (Saint Paul, Minnesota) · Tue, Oct 30, 1900
READ RETURNS IN COMFORT.

Election Returns to Be Displayed by Stereopticon at People's Church.

Tuesday night a stereopticon display of election returns will be made in the auditorium of the People's church. Arrangements have been made by which returns as full and complete as any in the city will be given. In addition a fine musical programme will be rendered by the best local talent. Those who attended a similar entertainment four years ago will appreciate the comfort of reading returns in a well lighted and heated apartment. The other attractions provided will effectually dispel the ennui engendered by weary intervals of waiting upon the telegraph, besides consoling the vanquished and cheering the victors.

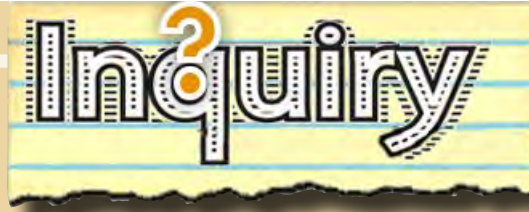
The ladies of the church will provide refreshments.

George Pardee 29th mayor, 1893

Pardee ran for mayor, not as a Republican, but as the nominee of the Citizen's Municipal League, formed in 1893 to take immediate action toward recovery of the waterfront from the Southern Pacific, to end the alleged graft and incompetence of the Chapman administration, to achieve strict enforcement of

liquor laws, to dredge Lake Merritt, and to insist that the proposed lake boulevard should be paid for by neighboring property owners. One other candidate, Dr. E.H. Woolsey, an Independent, received only 47 votes, but citizens flocked to his Magic lantern slide shows, depicting the shortcomings of his opponents, during the campaign.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mayors_of_Oakland,_California
 List of mayors of Oakland, California



From: Chuck Goff

Good Morning.

These are the only good pictures I have of it right now. Let me know if this helps. I'd like to make this actually work if I can. The light source is missing, there are no reels nor film and I'm not sure what's supposed to mount onto the horizontal shaft extending from the lower right front. It turns when you turn the crank, but it's at 90 degrees the to the direction of the film so I don't know how it would work. Other than that, it seems to be in excellent condition.

Thank you very much for any help you can give.



Old Hand-Cranked Projector

From David Evans

Hello Chuck

Actually, it probably is worth a reasonable amount. It is an early cinematograph projector from around 1890 - 1900. I'm not sure of the maker but will try to establish it when I have some spare time (might not be for a while). It is basically a magic lantern housing and probably had an arc lamp in it, but today an electric lamp of some sort would be the way to go. Some people are fitting the latest LED lights in their projectors, similar to car headlight units.

It will show any 35mm (silent) movie film (provided the machine has standard perforation sprockets, which most did even then). It was convention to have a top reel but often the film just came out of the gate and fell on the floor to be carefully rewound later. The film would only last for 2 to 3 minutes and might be about 75 feet or so long.

I think the horizontal drive shaft would have driven the shaped rotating shutter that would cover the lens when the film was moving in the gate. I don't see one of these on the machine, so presumably that is its function. The exact design may be resolved once the maker is identified and images of a similar machine can be found. Bear in mind there is a Silent Film Society, whose members may be able to recognise the machine



better than we can, and would also be able to advise on the supply of suitable re-prints of old movies for it.

Bear in mind that the original film stock would have been nitrate, which has a tendency to burst into flames even when not in use, so don't be tempted to find original old movie stock for it. Not that much exists anyway.

Let me know how you get on.

Regards
David



Slide Creation

From Hannah Odom

hodom9@gmail.com

Message Body:

I am a senior at Vidor High School in Vidor, Texas. I am the president of our drama club. We are currently looking for a play to do for our annual One Act Play contest. One of the plays we are thinking about performing is Radiance: The Passion of Marie Curie by Alan Alda. To do this we would need to have about 30 magic lantern slides made for our effects. I was wondering if there was any information you could give me on how to make them easily or if there a company or person that would make them for us. This information would be very helpful and appreciated. Thank you.

From David Evans

Hello Hannah

In Victorian and Edwardian times there were entire books devoted to methods of making lantern slides! The simplest these days is probably to create your image in a photo/art editing software package and print it on photographic transparency media with an inkjet (or laser) photo printer with a high definition (I usually use around 1500 dpi) and strong colour contrast in size 3.25" x 3.25" (British format) or 3.25" x 4" (American format), trim to that size and sandwich it between two similarly sized pieces of glass (that used for glazing pictures is a suitable thickness, not window glass, which is too thick. You can obtain ready-cut and gummed slide binding strips and masks from one of our members. Details may be on our web site, or I can pass your details to him if you so desire. The result will be an authentic looking lantern slide which should project quite adequately, probably up to around 10 ft square or so.

Good luck with your project.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

We Still Need a Lens for Lantern Giveaway

A lens like this



We need a lens for one of the lanterns that were donated by the **Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society**. We have the opportunity to donate a lantern to the Okanogan County Historical Society in Washington state. They have the need of a lantern to project and share the slide images they have in their collection. If you can donate a lens that will fit a Bausch and Lomb shown below. If you can help with this donation please click email link below.



Email
LARRY

Jacob Riis Speaks out in New York

From Suzanne Wray



<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/23/arts/design/jacob-riis-photographs-still-revealing-new-yorks-other-half.html>

Through March 20, the Museum of the City of New York is presenting “Jacob A. Riis: Revealing New York’s Other Half.”

Visitors may also view two videos, abridged, but faithful re-creations of the enormously popular slide shows that Riis staged around the country (individual tickets might have cost about \$7 in today’s dollars; Riis made about \$4,000 per lecture), complete with the requisite anecdotes, ethnic stereotyping

The exhibition, designed by Studio Joseph, will travel to the Library of Congress in Washington (from April 14 through Sept. 5) and to museums in Copenhagen and Ribe, Denmark, where Riis was born in 1849.

Riis delivered his first illustrated lecture in 1888, taking two hours to narrate 100 slides to an audience of amateur photographers in Manhattan and, of course, invited journalists.

From Terry Borton

The famous crusader Jacob Riis once again gave his illustrated lecture about the slums of New York at the City Museum of New York during the grand opening of an exhibit in his honor.

Riis’s lecture, re-created by Terry Borton, with introductory music by Nancy Stewart, both of The American Magic Lantern

Theater, was based on a transcript of one of his lectures, and used copies of his original slides now in the Museum. The originals will be displayed in the exhibit and are visible on-line at <https://collections.mcny.org/Explore/Featured/Jacob%20A.%20Riis/>

Riis was one of the leading illustrated lecturers at the turn of the last century, giving thousands of performances all over the country. His crusade to improve the lives of the destitute led to changes in the laws governing the construction and management of housing for the poor.

According to Terry, “Riis was a terrific speaker. His lecture is full of passion, outrage, humor, and pathos. I had a wonderful time working on it. My re-



Jacob Riis 1849 - 1914

creation cut his hour-long presentation down to eight minutes. It was hard to leave out so much great material. The toughest part was getting Riis’s Danish accent just right, so that Danes would think a Dane was speaking.”

A video of the lecture and slides will run continuously during the exhibit, which, after six months in New York, will travel to The Library of Congress in Washington, and then to Copenhagen, and Ribe, the Danish city where Riis was born.”

Bruce Gronbeck Memorialized

From Kentwood Wells

For those members who can access the journal *Rhetoric and Public Affairs* through Project Muse at a university library:

Volume 18, Number 3, Fall 2015 has a special section on the academic work of the late Bruce Gronbeck, a longtime member of our society, including his work on Jacob Riis.

A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton
Allen Dozler
Ron & Dorothy Easterday
David Evans
Chuck Goff
Shel Isen
David MacLean
Hannah Odom
Mark Sullivan
Eric Stott
Kentwood Wells
Suzanne Wray

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry

Please Welcome Ray & Pat Gilbert as re-joined members

Patricia Gilbert
29 Church Lane
Barton-Under-Needwood
Burton-Upon-Trent, Staffordshire
DE13 8HU
United Kingdom

Projected Scene Helps Make Composite Photo

Circle, ready to project scene (shown below) on screen. Bottom, subjects seated before screen on which scene will be flashed. Top, right, picture resulting from photographing subjects and scene



ing crossed the ocean. Teague's process involves the use of a large translucent rubber screen and a giant projector. The picture to be used as the background is placed on a **lantern slide** and projected on the huge screen. In front of this screen is placed the foreground part of the picture, usually people. Then a picture is made of the foreground and the scene on the screen, which composes the two and makes the finished photograph appear to have been taken in the locale pictured. The problem to be overcome was how to get enough light on the screen to permit normal exposure of the foreground without burning up the **lantern slide**. This was solved by treating the **lantern slide** in a hardening solution and by immersing it in a water cell during projection. Water circulating through the cell reduced the temperature and prevented blistering.

By projecting a distant scene on a screen and then photographing a subject in the foreground, satisfactory composite still photographs can be produced. The process has been perfected by George J. Teague. It makes possible the photographing of persons or any object, such as an automobile, against a background of the Pyramids without the foreground subjects ever hav-

